Title: **Maximizing DSL Throughput**

Technical Field:

This invention relates to transmission of signals over Digital Subscriber Lines.

Problem:

Digital Subscriber Lines are becoming increasingly popular as a means of communicating between telephone subscribers and a central office switch. A Digital Subscriber Line is a twisted pair interconnecting a central office and customer premises equipment. While in the past, such lines have been restricted to carrying signals of no more than 4 KHZ, the normal voice band for telephone conversations, it has been found that these lines can in fact carry much higher frequencies, especially, if the signal that is being carried is a digital signal. However, even if digital signals are being carried, the inevitable limitations of cross-talk has an upper boundary for the bandwidth of digital signals that can be transmitted over a Digital Subscriber Line.

Standards have been established to limit the bandwidth for digital signals as a function of the number and type of Digital Subscriber Lines sharing a common binder group. A binder group is a group of line carriers which are bound together with a result that the cross-talk among the lines of a binder group is much higher than cross-talk from lines in

other binder groups.

A problem of the prior art is that the limitations on bandwidth in Digital Subscriber Lines restricts the usefulness of such lines.

Solution:

Applicant has further studied this problem. The present limitation on the bit-rate allowed for any particular DSL is a function of the allowable bit-rates of the other DSL(s) in the same binder group, and of course, the length of the DSL. Clearly, however, a DSL which is not transmitting at any particular time, does not introduce cross-talk into an active DSL. Accordingly, Applicant has alleviated the problem in accordance with his invention, and has made an advance over the prior art in accordance with this invention, wherein the upper limit on the bit-rate of the DSL to correspond to the bit-rates of only the active DSL(s) in the same binder group. Advantageously, if most of the DSL(s) in a particular binder group are currently inactive, the bit-rate of a DSL can be substantially increased without incurring excessive cross-talk. Similarly, if most or all of the DSL(s) in a binder group are currently active, then the bit-rate is reduced, but the allowable cross-talk limits are not exceeded. Advantageously, the total DSL throughput through a binder group is dynamically adjusted for optimum performance.

In accordance with Applicant's invention, a processor of the switching system on

which the DSL(s) of a binder group are terminated, monitors the allowable DSL throughput on each DSL of the binder group. Based on these numbers, the bit-rate of a newly active DSL can be calculated so that it will not exceed the limitation imposed by cross-talk characteristics. As DSL(s) become inactive, or as bit-rate requirements are reduced, the bit-rates of one or more of the other active DSL(s) can be increased, subject to the limitations of the binder group as a whole. Similarly, as each new DSL becomes active and requests a particular bit-rate, the bit-rate of other DSL(s) can be adjusted to accommodate as much as possible, of the requested bit-rate.

Brief Description of the Drawing(s):

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating the operation of Applicant's invention; and

Figure 2 is a flow diagram illustrating the operation of the processor used to control DSL bit-rate limitations.

Detailed Description:

Figure 1 is a block diagram illustrating a plurality of Controllers at Customer Premises Equipment (CPE), and transceivers at a switch connected to the CPE. The two are connected by Digital Subscriber Lines. Specifically, Controllers **(1)**, . . . , **(2)** are connected via DSL(s) **(21)**, . . . , **(22)**, to Transceivers **(11)**, . . . , **(12)**, in Switch **(30)**. DSL(s)

(21), . . . , (22) are in a single Binder Group (25). Processor (31) monitors the requested

bit-rates of the various Controllers (1), . . . , (2), and adjusts these bit-rates downward

if the requested bit-rates from all of the DSL(s) (1), . . . , (2), would cause excessive total

binder cross-talk, hence, would be likely to exceed cross-talk limits on one or more indi-

vidual DSL(s). The effect of different bit-rates from one DSL on another DSL communi-

cating at different bit-rates can be established experimentally, or by modeling and simulat-

ion. The allowable cross-talk can also be established experimentally by determining the

cross-talk power which will cause excessive error rates. Then, the cross-talk contribut-

ions of each active DSL can be established as a function of the bit-rate of that DSL, and

the sum of the cross-talk contributions of all active DSL(s) can be subject to a limitation;

if this limitation is exceeded, the bit-rate of selected ones of the DSL(s) can be reduced

until the total cross-talk power meets requirements.

Figure 2 is a flow diagram illustrating the operations of Applicant's invention. In

this simplified example, a number of assumptions are made:

1. All loops are of equal length.

2. All loops stay in the same binder.

3. Cross-talk effects from outside binders are negligible (except as
    discussed hereinafter).

The objective in this example is to set a maximum bit-rate for each active loop that

is approximately the same for all of these loops. Exceptions could be made by having special high priority loops which always receive the bandwidth allotment which they request, and by allowing loops to request less than the allowed maximum. For loops which request less than the allowed maximum, the transmission rate is not lowered until all or most of the active loops have a transmission rate at or below the requested transmission rate for the loop under consideration.

Figure 2 is a flow diagram of a program loop used to monitor and adjust the transmission rate of each loop. The cross-talk from each active, or keep-alive loop is expressed in cross-talk units. It is assumed that the number of cross-talk units is directly proportional to the allowable transmission rate for each DSL line. In Action Block **(201)**, the number of cross-talk units from ADSL lines operating at full rate is accumulated. Next, the number of cross-talk units from ADSL lines operating at a rate other than the full rate, but at a higher rate than a keep-alive rate, is accumulated, Action Block **(203)**. Next, the number of cross-talk units from ADSL lines in the keep-alive mode is accumulated, Action Block **(205)**. Next, the number of cross-talk units from SDSL lines operating at full rate is accumulated, Action Block **(207)**. Next, the number of cross-talk units from SDSL lines operating at a rate other than the full rate, but at a higher rate than the keep-alive rate, is accumulated, Action Block **(209)**. Finally, the number of cross-talk units

from SDSL lines in the keep-alive rate is accumulated, Action Block (**211**). In Action Block (**213**), the sum of these (6) accumulated cross-talk units is calculated, Action Block (**213**).

Test (**215**) is used to determine whether the total number of cross-talk units is equal to, greater than, or less than the limit for that binder. In order to allow lines which are inactive to become active, and to do so quickly, this limit should be lower than a true upper limit for the binder by several (say 1 - 4), full-rate cross-talk units. Then, when a line becomes active, the limit of Test (**215**) is temporarily exceeded, but through repeated traversal of the program route, eventually goes back to that limit.

If the total binder cross-talk is equal to the limit, then Action Block (**217**), ("don't change") is entered, and the loop is re-entered by a transfer to Action Block (**201**).

If the binder cross-talk is less than the binder limit, then Test (**221**) is used to determine whether all active lines are in the keep-alive mode. If so, then Action Block (**217**), previously described is entered, since there is no need under these circumstances to raise a transmission rate of any active line. Action Block (**223**) indicates that only full-rate and partial rate lines should be considered for the calculations of Action Blocks (**225**), (**227**), and (**229**). Test (**225**) is used to determine whether more than one of the lines is currently transmitting at the lowest rate of active lines. For Test (**225**), lines which have

requested a bit-rate less than the maximum are not considered unless these lines are transmitting at the same rate as active lines which have requested transmission at the highest rate. If the result of Test **(225)** indicates that there are several lines transmitting at the lowest rate, then one of these lines has as its allowable transmission rate increased by one unit, or by multiple units to decrease convergence time, and the line is selected randomly, Action Block **(227)**. (One cross-talk unit may be, for example, 1% of the total cross-talk at the maximum transmission rate of a DSL line). If only one line is transmitting at the lowest rate, then that line has its allowable transmission rate increased by one cross-talk unit or by multiple units, Action Block **(229)**. Following execution of Action Block **(227)** or **(229)**, Action Block **(201)**, (the beginning of the loop), is re-entered.

The loop is executed frequently in order to ensure that a large increment of cross-talk is detected before it has a chance to cause an unacceptable error rate. If a large jump is detected, the number of cross-talk units can be decreased by multiple units in each iteration of the loop.

If the result of Test **(215)** indicates that the total binder cross-talk limit has been exceeded, then Test **(241)** is used to determine whether all of the lines are in the keep-alive mode. If all lines are in the keep-alive mode, the limit clearly must be re-engineered, since the present limit will not even allow all, or fewer than all, of the lines in the binder

to be in the keep-alive mode, Action Block **(243)**.

If all of the active lines are not in the keep-alive mode, then Action Block **(245)** indicates that bit-rate for Blocks **(247)**, **(249)**, and **(251)**, (only full-rate and active partial rate lines, excluding those lines which are already transmitting at their maximum requested rate), should be considered. Test **(247)** is used to determine whether one, or more than one line is transmitting at the same highest rate of this group. If more than one line is transmitting at this highest rate, then one of the lines transmitting at that highest rate is randomly selected, and its transmission rate is reduced by one cross-talk unit, or by multiple units to decrease convergence time, Action Block **(249)**. If only one line is transmitting at this maximum rate of those examined in Test **(247)**, then that line has its transmission rate decreased by one cross-talk unit, or by multiple units. Following execution of Action Block **(249)** or **(251)**, the start of the loop, Action Block **(201)**, is re-entered.

While this discussion has been in terms of DSL(s) in a single binder group, the principles can be extended to multiple binder groups. The upper limit of single binder cross-talk units can be modified by the cross-talk units of surrounding binder groups, so that the upper limit would be less if these other units are at the upper end of their cross-talk unit range, and higher, if these surrounding binder groups are substantially below this upper end of their crosstalk limits.

Posthuma - 30

The above description is of one preferred embodiment of Applicant's invention. Other embodiments will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. The invention is limited only by the attached Claims.